Region 2 News

Region 2 includes all schools in the 12 SE counties of Indiana

----

Clark
Dearborn
Floyd
Harrison
Jackson
Jefferson
Jennings
Ohio
Ripley
Scott
Switzerland
Washington

Hello to all in Region 2 -

I am very excited about the first issue of the Region 2 newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to provide IDOE news, updates and resources from around the state and within our Region 2 community. I will strive to compile important links, information, and tips in one place to make it easier for you to access. However, when new information comes out and needs to be shared in a more timely manner, I will continue to send emails and important memos.

If you have news or resources that are spectacular, interesting, helpful or noteworthy, please send me your information via email so I can include it in the next edition!

I look forward to providing you with new information that will support your school improvement.

Please feel free to contact me via phone, text or email with any questions you may have or support that you may need.

Rebecca

reeves@doe.in.gov

New Outreach Webpage

www.doe.in.gov/outreach

We will continue to add many resources to this page in order to support you with your school improvement. Check out the resources that are included on the 8 Turnaround Principles which include:

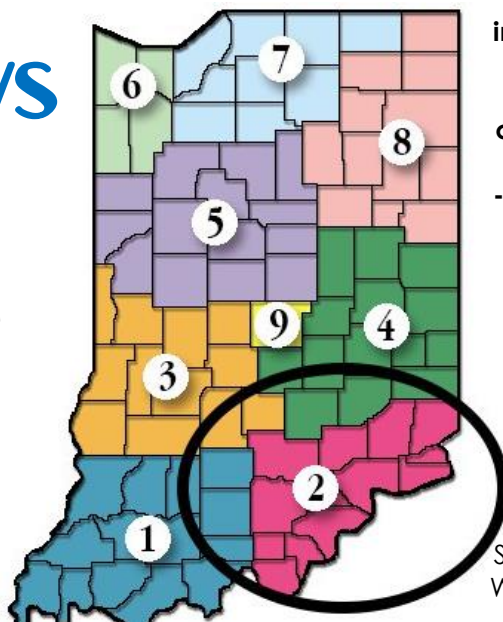|		
1 School Leadership	2 School Culture & Climate	3 Instruction
4 Assessment & Intervention Systems	5 Staffing Practices	6 Use of Data
7 Use of Time	8 Family & Community Engagement	

Upcoming IDOE Dates

11.5 SBOE Meets
A-F Accountability Grades are expected to be approved during this meeting.

11.7 Real Time and Enrollment Mobility Closes

11.30 Student Achievement Plans Due
This document is required for Focus and Priority Schools only.

12.3 SBOE Meets

Don't forget! I am always looking for great resources to share with everyone in our region! If you have anything you are using or would like to use, please let me know and I will include it here!

First Freedom Student Competition

There is still time!

This **national essay and video contest** offers **9th - 12th grade students** an opportunity to compete for **$2,500 awards** as they examine the First Amendment and history and implementation of freedom of religion and conscience in American democracy and the world today. Students then present their evaluation in written essay or video format.

For the complete topic, essay and video guidelines, registration, classroom poster, student flyer and other details, visit www.firstfreedom.org, and then click on the First Freedom Student Competition button.

Student online **registration** is required on or before **Monday, November 17, 2014,** and the **postmark deadline** for students to mail their essays or videos with the accompanying entry materials is **Monday, November 24, 2014. Winners** will be **announced** on Thomas Jefferson's birthday, **April 13, 2015**.

Here's hoping for 0 days of snow closings...but, just in case this happens➔

Click here for details on the virtual options for inclement weather school closings!

Indiana Academic Standards

news & resources

Materials from the Regional Sessions Now Available

Thanks to the 1,500 + dedicated educators who carved time out of their fall schedules to participate in the Indiana Department of Education's ten Regional Professional Development Sessions, "Instructional Shifts in College and Career Readiness: Strategies that Empower Teaching and Learning." Of 290 school corporations in Indiana, 211 were represented during these sessions. We hope this training provided targeted information and practical strategies as educators implement the new Indiana Academic Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics (2014) this school year.

For those of you who were not able to join us for one of the sessions, we encourage you to visit the training hub page at http://www.doe.in.gov/standards/indiana-academic-standards-regional-training-resource-hub to access all of the content. You'll also be able to watch videos, view webinars, and access informational documents offered during the ten sessions.

LOOKING FOR PD?

Should you need additional PD from the IDOE as you implement the new standards, please complete a request form.

We are reviewing requests on a rolling basis and will respond as promptly as possible to your request for professional development or technical assistance related to the standards.
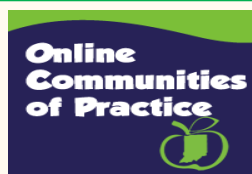
Helpful Resources for Teaching & Learning Using IAS

English Language Arts

Mathematics

A Guide to the 8 Mathematical Practice Standards

High Ability Differentiation Resources

Online Communities of Practice

If you haven't joined a community of practice yet, we encourage you to consider joining this new platform dedicated to peer-to-peer online collaboration for educators. To learn more about the value of these communities, please visit the web page. There are many resources being added everyday by educators and IDOE staff!

Assessment News

No Icons on ISTEP+

There will NOT be icons on the ISTEP+ assessment this year clueing the students in to use the reference sheet. This is due to assessing the Mathematical Process Standard PS.5 which says that students are to know when to use appropriate tools strategically.

Michele Walker and the Office of Assessment sent out multiple memos along with reference sheets for students in emails to District Assessment Coordinators. Please be sure to check with your Assessment Coordinator to ensure that these memos and reference sheets were sent to all principals and teachers. They contain helpful information and resources that should be utilized. Make sure every student has a hard copy in front of him/her when taking the test. That way it keeps the reference sheet right there for the students to see and use as necessary. By handing every student the reference sheet right now in class and get them use to using it, it will become a routine for them. Teachers can refer to it anytime they do anything in class that is connected to the reference sheet.

ACUITY STRESS!

Are you and your teachers feeling stressed out about the first round of Acuity assessments because students are scoring so low?

Here is a note from Bill Reed, in the Curriculum Department:

"Please let teachers know that in the past Acuity was divided up a little differently. The first Acuity assessment had what normally was covered in the first third of the school year. The second Acuity assessment had what was normally covered in the first two-thirds of the school year and the last Acuity assessment had anything from the entire year on the assessment. This year is different. The first round of Acuity assessments has the entire year's material on the test. This means students may perform very poorly since teachers have not taught two-thirds of the material that is being covered on the assessment. With only 25 or so questions on the first Acuity assessment, students should be scoring in the single digits on this round. This is very different than in the past when students would be getting around 15 – 20 questions correct. The second round of Acuity assessments will also have the entire year's material on the test. So again students will not be scoring as well as they have in the past but should at least be in double digit correct answers on this round. Teachers should be seeing GROWTH from the first round to the second round and so forth and so on for the third round. This is very different from the past, so teachers, rightfully so, are a little distraught. So please be aware and please help calm the teachers and explain what is happening this year with Acuity assessments."

IDOE Assessment Resources

Acuity   ISTEP+   ECA
IREAD3   Office of Assessment

---RIGOR---

The new college- and career-ready Indiana Academic Standards in English/Language Arts and Mathematics *require more rigor in terms of instruction, as well as assessment.* As discussed in the recent Regional Professional Development Sessions regarding Standards and Assessments, the shifts that must take place in the classroom are paramount to student success.

The rigor of Indiana's new standards is represented in assessment tools, including Acuity, Experience CCRA, and Item Samplers. Standards-based instruction and use of assessment tools will prepare students for the rigor of the new ISTEP+ test.

To be   **R**eady for college- and career-related expectations…

Implement innovative instructional practices;

Gather and use resources from the IDOE website;

Offer and seek ideas via a Community of Practice; and

Reach out when you have questions or need assistance.

R – I – G – O – R leads to student success!

Last but not Least...

Need additional support with your core reading program or interventions?

Check out the K-2 Early Intervention Grant!

<u>The grant is due on Friday, November 14, 2014</u>.

2014-2015 Indiana Literacy Early Intervention Grant (ILEIG). ILEIG provides funds to public schools in order to establish and/or continue scientifically-based early literacy intervention programs for students in kindergarten through second grade. The one year school grant will be awarded through a competitive application process and funds will need to be encumbered by June 30, 2015. Completed applications must be electronically submitted on or before Friday, November 14, 2014 to ILEIG@doe.in.gov. Questions regarding the ILEIG may be directed to John Wolf, Literacy Specialist, jwolf@doe.in.gov. The grant does not pay for computers, salaries, food, travel, or conference registrations.

Grant applications: http://www.doe.in.gov/achievement/ccr/indiana-literacy-early-intervention-grant

Announcing: *Experience College- and Career-Ready Assessment* (also referred to as "Experience CCRA") is now available!

- ❖ Experience CCRA is a set of technology-enhanced items available for classroom use
    - Access **Experience CCRA** via the web**: http://experience-ccra-in.ctb.com**
- ❖ Timeline for Experience CCRA implementation:

Date	Activity
October 1	Experience CCRA release (open all year)
October 1	*Experience CCRA User Guide* available
October 9	Answer key disseminated to educators
October 10	Recorded professional development sessions available—including - details regarding technology-enhanced items and scoring - best practice for use of Experience CCRA
October 27	Experience CCRA "accommodated version" release (including screen reader and other accommodation-related tools)
November 7	Answer key posted on the web for public access (including parents and community members)

<u>**Important Note**</u>**: Providing students access to Experience CCRA between October 1 and April 20 is required in order to ensure students are prepared for the ISTEP+ Part 2 Assessment, comprised of multiple-choice and technology-enhanced items.**

Coming in January: Experience CCRA for ECAs